

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW BIRDS FROM ALABAMA.

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Recent field work conducted by the Biological Survey in Alabama has resulted in the discovery of undescribed forms of the common crow and of the towhee. Both of these new forms reach the extreme of differentiation on the Gulf coast, the towhee ranging nearly throughout Alabama and the crow still farther north to southern Illinois and the District of Columbia. One interesting fact developed by these studies is that neither of the new races is closely related to the forms occupying peninsular Florida, nor are they strictly intermediate between the latter and the northern races of the species. The crow is decidedly smaller than the Florida Crow while the towhee is much larger than the Florida Towhee and slightly larger even than the northern race.

***Corvus brachyrhynchos paulus* subsp. nov.**

SOUTHERN CROW.

Type from Bon Secour, Alabama. ♀ adult, No. 204,882, U. S. Nat. Mus., Biological Survey Collection. October 24, 1908, A. H. Howell. Orig. No. 741.

Characters.—Decidedly smaller than *Corvus b. brachyrhynchos*, with a much slenderer bill. Nearest to *Corvus b. hesperis* but with shorter wing and slightly larger bill.

Distribution—Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, southeastern Texas, Georgia (?), South Carolina, and north to the District of Columbia and southern Illinois.

Measurements.—Type (♀ adult): wing, 273; tail, 165; exposed culmen, 46; depth of bill at nostrils, 16.5; tarsus, 54; middle toe, 34. Average of 4 adult males from Autaugaville, Alabama: wing, 290 (285-300); tail, 170 (166-178); exposed culmen, 51 (47-54); depth of bill at nostrils, 17.5 (17-18); tarsus, 60.5 (60-61); middle toe, 33.9 (31-36.5). Average of 3

adult females from coast of Alabama: wing, 274.3 (270-280); tail, 162.7 (155-168); exposed culmen, 45.8 (45.5-46); depth of bill at nostrils, 16.2 (16-16.5); tarsus, 57 (54-59); middle toe, 33 (32-34).

Remarks.—This new race of the common crow seems to be fully as well characterized as the other recognized subspecies. Although the bird is nearest to *C. b. hesperis* in size, its range apparently is separated from the range of *hesperis* by a strip of country in central Texas in which no crows breed. Specimens examined from east Texas are apparently intermediate between *brachyrhynchos* and *paulus*. A series of 9 breeding birds from the District of Columbia and vicinity are also somewhat intermediate, but much nearer to *paulus*. This form shows no approach to *pascuus*, the resident bird of south Florida, which has much larger bill and feet. A breeding male from Christchurch Parish, South Carolina, is typical *paulus* and a breeding female from Mt. Carmel, Illinois, is apparently nearest to this form.

Since *Corvus brachyrhynchos* has now been separated into five races, it seems desirable to fix the type locality of the original form. Brehm, in describing the species,* attributes it to North America, without mention of a definite locality. The measurements given by him (length, 19½ inches; tail, 8¼ inches; bill 23 lines) indicate a large bird and there is every probability that his specimen came from northeastern America. The large form is known to occur throughout New England and the type locality is hereby fixed at vicinity of Boston, Massachusetts.

Specimens examined.—Total number 24, from the following localities:

Alabama: Autaugaville, 6; Bayou La Batre, 1; Bon Secour, 1; Florence, 1; Whistler, 1.

Mississippi: Fayette, 1.

Louisiana: Tallulah, 1.

Texas, Sour Lake, 1.

South Carolina: Christchurch Parish, 1.

Virginia: Falls Church, 5; Addison, 1.

Maryland: Bladensburg, 1; Garrett Park, 1.

District of Columbia: Washington, 1.

Illinois: Mt. Carmel, 1.

* Beiträge zur Vögelkunde, II, 1822, pp. 37, 56.

MEASUREMENTS OF 23 SPECIMENS OF *Corvus brachyrhynchos paulus*.

Museum No.	Sex	Locality	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Depth of bill at nostrils	Tarsus	Middle toe
230434	♂	Autaugaville, Alabama	September 17, 1911	288	170	53	17.5	61	36.5
230895	♂	"	October 15, 1911	285	168	54	17.5	60	33
230946	♂	"	November 5, 1911	289	166	50	18	60	31
230948	♂	"	December 22, 1911	300	178	47	17	61	35
238189	♂	Florence, Alabama	May 7, 1912	301	178	49	18	58	31
239530	♂	Fayette, Mississippi	September 24, 1912	296	180	49	17.5	62	31
195909	♂	Sour Lake, Texas	March 20, 1905	298	181	55	18	67	36
195696	♂	Tallulah, Louisiana	February 25, 1904	289	169	53	17.5	64	36
222322	♂	Christchurch Parish, South Carolina	May 5, 1911	295	174	49	17	64	37.5
83914	♂	Fairfax County, Virginia	September 13, 1879	296	178	49	17.5	59	35
234161	♂	Falls Church, Virginia	May 7, 1913	295	176	53	17	61	36
234162	♂	"	May 7, 1913	318	192	49	17.5	59	32.5
234163	♂	"	May 7, 1913	287	166	48	18	58	32
240111	♂	Garrett Park, Maryland	June 13, 1913	298	170	46	17.5	56	35
204882	♀	Bon Secour, Alabama	October 24, 1908	273	165	46	16.5	54	34
230944	♀	Bayou La Batre, Alabama	February 9, 1912	270	155	45.5	16	58	33
230945	♀	Whistler, Alabama	March 11, 1912	286	168	46	16	59	32
230947	♀	Autaugaville, Alabama	January 5, 1912	286	166	48	16.5	62	34
230606	♀	"	September 24, 1911	305	180	50	16.5	60	33
240174	♀	Bladensburg, Maryland	April 8, 1913	297	180	47	16	60	33
234164	♀	Falls Church, Virginia	May 7, 1913	303	180	43	16	60	32.5
239927	♀	Addison, Virginia	May 13, 1913	300	167	48	17	62	35
131508	♀	Washington, District of Columbia	May 9, 1892	298	186	48	17.5	60	36
83915	♀	Mt. Carmel, Ill.	April 13, 1869	297	181	45.5	17.5	57	33

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE MEASUREMENTS OF THE RACES OF *Corvus brachyrhynchos*.*

Males		Wing	Tail	Ex- posed culmen	Depth of bill at nostrils	Tarsus	Mid- dle toe
C. brachyrhynchos	brachyrhynchos	321	182	51.5	19.5	62	38
"	" pascuus	304	175	51.5	19	62.5	38
"	" hesperis	302.5	171	47.5	16.5	57.5	35.5
"	" paulus †	290	170	51	17.5	60	33.9
"	" caurinus	283.5	163	47	16.5	51	33
Females							
C. brachyrhynchos	brachyrhynchos	305	177	48	18	57.5	35
"	" pascuus	304	169	51	19	62	38
"	" hesperis	295	169.5	45.5	16	55.5	34
"	" paulus ‡	283	167	47	16.3	59	33
"	" caurinus	272	153	45	16	48	30.5

Pipilo erythrophthalmus canaster subsp. nov.

ALABAMA TOWHEE.

Type from Spring Hill near Mobile, Alabama. ♀ adult, No. 207,771, U. S. Nat. Mus., Biological Survey Collection. May 8, 1911, A. H. Howell. Original No. 944.

Characters.—Similar to *P. e. erythrophthalmus*, but with larger bill and slightly longer tail; white markings on tail feathers less extensive; sides and flanks averaging paler; females with head, neck, chest, and upper parts more grayish (dark olive-brown instead of Prout's brown); iris red.

Distribution.—Greater part of Alabama excepting extreme northern counties where it grades into *erythrophthalmus*; eastern and western limits of range unknown.

Color.—Females: Upper parts varying from dark olive-brown to clove-brown; top of head somewhat browner (sepia or bistre); throat and chest pale fuscous, shading to bistre; otherwise as in *erythrophthalmus*.

Measurements.—Average of 8 adult males from Alabama: wing, 89 (85–93); tail, 97 (90–101); exposed culmen, 14.9 (14–16); depth of bill at base, 10.2 (10–11); tarsus, 29.9 (28–32) middle toe, 19.9 (19–21.5); length of white spot on outermost tail-feather, 28.7 (26–33). Female (type): wing, 86; tail, 96; exposed culmen, 14; depth of bill at base, 10.3; tarsus, 29; middle toe, 19; length of white spot on outermost tail-feather, 24.5.

Remarks.—This new race may be recognized in either sex by the relatively small amount of white on the tail, as compared with *erythrophthalmus*, and by the large size and red eyes as compared with *alleni*. Females are much more grayish than those of either *erythrophthalmus* or *alleni*. The bird is probably in the main non-migratory, and occurs locally in moderate numbers throughout Alabama and probably adjacent parts of Georgia and Mississippi.

* All measurements, except those of *paulus*, from Ridgway's "Birds of North and Middle America."

† Average of 4 adults from Autaugaville, Alabama.

‡ Average of 5 adults from southern Alabama.